year 1992-93, Settlement Commission (Income-tax) purchased only one table and four chairs in replacement of the condemned furniture after obtaining necessary relaxation of the restrictions imposed in this regard. One table and three chairs were provided at the residence of the former Chairperson of the Commission as admissible under extent Government instructions on the subject to enable her to perform official duties from there.

(d) No additional item of furniture has been accepted from any supplier.

Negotiations with Asian Development Bank

2595. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJANIRANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for securing loan for the current year 1993-94;

(b) if so, with what success, indicating the extent and terms of the aid agreed upon; and

(c) whether the terms agreed upon are likely to adversely affect the performance of public sector banks; if so, in what manner and to what extent?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank and agreed to provide loans from its Ordinary Capital Resources to the extent of about US $ One billion during the calendar year 1993. These loans normally carry a grace period of 5 years, repayment in 25 years and the variable lending rate of interest which is currently 6.64% per annum.

(c) No, Sir.

Functioning of CEGAT

2596. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court of India highlighted the mal-functioning of the Customs, Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal functioning in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of a Supreme Court judgement dated 14-5-93, based on articles appearing in the Excise Law Times about the functioning of CEGAT, the Government have constituted a high level Team to go into the alegations and suggest measures to improve the functioning of the Tribunal. Meanwhile, steps have been initiated to fill in the vacant posts, provide supporting facilities and to tone up the working of the Tribunal.

Steps to check tax evasion

2597. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any system to check whether the Central Excise and Sales Tax have been opened on those goods transported by the Railways;

(b) if not, what is the revenue loss per year on this account; and